



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2011 Prospective Plantings

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Montana spring wheat producers expect to seed 2.8 million acres in 2011, down 2 percent from last year, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. Producers expect to plant 510,000 acres of durum wheat this spring, down 6 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 2.3 million acres, are up 100,000 acres from the December estimate and 12 percent above last year. At the end of March 2011, winter wheat conditions were above a year ago with 0 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 4 percent excellent, compared with 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 53 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 4 percent excellent in 2010. Adding the winter wheat acres seeded last fall to the intended acreage for other spring and durum wheat, all wheat seeded for the 2011 crop year is expected to total 5.61 million acres, up 3 percent from 2010.

Montana barley producers intend to plant 770,000 acres, up 1 percent from the previous year. The intended seeded acreage for oats is expected to total 55,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2010 and, if realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage on record. Corn growers intend to plant 70,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. Acres planted to sugar beets are expected to total 45,900 acres, up 3,300 acres from 2010. Hay producers intend to harvest 2.9 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

The area planted to all dry beans in Montana is expected to total 27,000 acres, up from 18,800 acres last year. All garbanzo beans (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 18,000 acres, up from 6,300 acres in 2010. Of that acreage, 11,000 acres will be planted to small garbanzo beans and 7,000 acres will be planted to large garbanzo beans. All dry pea area planted is expected to total 215,000 acres, down from 220,000 acres in 2010. Austrian winter pea area planted is expected to total 12,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from last year. Lentil acres planted for 2011 is expected to total 320,000 acres, up from 260,000 acres in 2010. If realized, this would be the largest planted acreage on record.

Montana canola producers intend to plant 25,000 acres in 2011, up from 17,500 acres in 2010. Flaxseed producers intend to plant 22,000 acres in 2011, up 7,000 acres from last year.

In the United States, all wheat planted area is estimated at 58.0 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. The 2011 winter wheat planted area, at 41.2 million acres, is 10 percent above last year and up 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.7 million are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2011 is estimated at 14.4 million acres, up 5 percent from 2010. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2011 is estimated at 2.37 million acres, down 8 percent from 2010.

U.S. barley producers intend to seed 2.95 million acres for the 2011 crop year, up 3 percent from the 2.87 million acres seeded in 2010. If realized, this will be the second lowest seeded acreage on record.

Area seeded in the U.S. to oats for the 2011 crop year is expected to total 2.84 million acres, down 10 percent from the 3.14 million acres planted last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States total on record.

U.S. corn growers intend to plant 92.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, up 5 percent from last year and 7 percent higher than in 2009. If realized, this will be the second highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944, behind only the 93.5 million acres planted in 2007.

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U.S. producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of all hay in 2011, down 1 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest harvested acreage on record. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the western two-thirds of the Nation, primarily due to lower livestock inventories, an increase in acreage being planted to other crops with higher prices, and drought conditions in the Southern Great Plains.

U.S. dry edible pea growers intend to plant 586,000 acres, down 22 percent from 2010. If realized, this season will be the third consecutive year of declining United States planted acreage. Austrian winter pea area planted for the 2011 crop year is expected to total 20,000 acres, down 36 percent from a year ago.

Canola producers in the U.S. intend to plant a record high 1.61 million acres in 2011, up 11 percent from 2010. Compared with last year, planted area is expected to increase in four of the six major canola-producing States, with acreage in Oklahoma expected to increase 67 percent from the previous year's area.

Crop Contacts: Christel Pachl for spring wheat, durum wheat, sugar beets, flaxseed, and canola, Thomas Chard for hay, Michael Johnson for oats and corn, Carmen Pennington for winter wheat, barley, dry beans, garbanzo beans, dry peas, Austrian winter peas, and lentils.

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